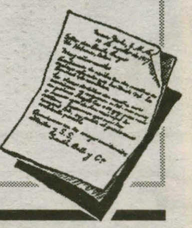
A holiday classic as it was intended
Read about HCO's live performance of *The Nutcracker* with Utica Dance this weekend. Page 11.

All I want for Christmas is DIY

The Spectator gives this year's best do-it-yourself gift ideas. Page 8.

From our mailbox
Administrators and faculty weigh in on issues including the recent protests and the Title IX investigation. Pages 5 and 6.



The Spectator

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2014

Volume LV Number 12

Jeter steps off the field for Great Names

by Brian Sobotko '16
News Editor

PHOTO BY NANCY FORD

Derek Jeter chats with Harold Reynolds about his life and career for his appearance in the Sacerdote Great Names Series on Wednesday.

Former New York Yankees captain and shortstop Derek Jeter spoke at Hamilton College Wednesday night as this year's speaker in the College's Sacerdote Great Names Series. Hamilton originally distributed over 5,000 tickets for the event and anticipated a to-capacity crowd; however, there were handfuls of empty seats, potentially due to the poor weather conditions.

Jeter participated in a wide-ranging discussion moderated by former MLB all star and current Fox analyst Harold Reynolds for about one hour. Reynolds structured the conversation around five topics: upbringing and family, the key to his success (which Reynolds called his focus), Jeter's philanthropic work through the Turn 2 Foundation, his personal life and the shortstop's playing career, specifically during his final season.

President Joan Hinde Stewart, in addition to praising his on-field prowess, called Jeter "someone you can admire as a person," in her fiery introduction.

Jeter credited his family, whom he

see Jeter, page 3

Students stage die-in protest on College Hill Road

by Shannon O'Brien '15
Senior Editor

Last Thursday, a 200-person group comprised of students, faculty members and staff gathered at the crosswalk on Martin's Way to protest the recent non-indictments of the officers who killed Michael Brown and Eric Garner and to stand in solidary with victims of police brutality. The event was called "Student Walk-Out and Die-In Protest," and students were invited to participate via Facebook.

The event description on Facebook called for students to walk out of their classes or other commitments at 2:00 pm and meet at the Map on Martin's Way for a "die-in" at 2:20 pm in which everyone would lay on the ground to show solidarity with people of color who have been killed by police.

Jorett Joseph '15 and Naomi Tsegaye '16 spearheaded the planning of the event. "Towards the end of break Jorett called me and we talked about how upset we were with what was going on in Ferguson," Tsegaye said. "I had the idea of a Walk Out and she had the idea of a Die-In. We collaborated and thought it would be best to do both."

Students began arriving at the Map at 1:50 pm with signs that read "Black Lives Matter," "Hands Up Don't Shoot," "I Can't Breathe," "Indict America" and "I Could Be Next!," among many other potent messages. Tsegaye and Joseph gave opening remarks. "It is 2014, and today we are holding a die-in," said Joseph. "In th1960s, we were holding sit-ins. We need to come to terms with the state of our country. These strange fruit

see School officials, page 2

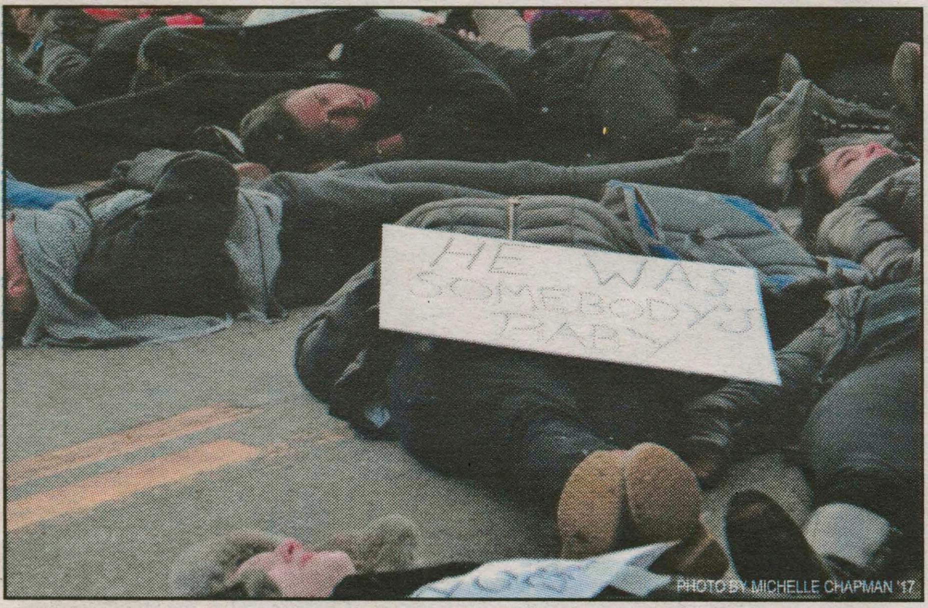


PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

Students lay on College Hill Road in protest of recent events nationwide.

President Stewart announces retirement

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
Editor in Chief

President Joan Hinde Stewart informed members of the Hamilton College Board of Trustees last week that she plans to retire on June 30, 2016. After 13 years leading Hamilton College. Stewart has led the College for 13 years, making her the eight longest serving president in its history.

"I…consider myself privileged to have worked for so long with gifted students, outstanding colleagues, generous and dedicated alumni, supportive parents and a superb board," Stewart said in her message to the Hamilton community.

Stewart assumed the Hamilton presidency on July 1, 2003. She was formerly dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of French at the University of South Carolina (USC). The first in her family to earn a college degree, Stewart also joined the Hamilton faculty as a professor of French. She is the first female president in Hamilton's 200-year history.

During her time as Hamilton's president, the College experienced an era of great growth and improvement. New courses and concentrations and exceptional faculty members have been added to the College's academic program. $250 million were invested in creating new and renovated facilities for the sciences, social sciences, studio and performing arts, student activities and fitness and recreation. Under Stewart's leadership, Hamilton implemented a strategic plan meant to advance four values considered to be College's historic strengths: education for self-direction, a self-governing community, thoughtful dialogue and debate and engagement with the world. As a result of actions like these, Hamilton has set records for student quality, selectivity and diversity.

Perhaps President Stewart's most significant contribution to the College will be her efforts to ensure that deserving students from families of modest means have the financial resources to attend Hamilton. During Stewart's tenure, Hamilton reallocated $1 million in merit aid to need-based aid, doubled its financial aid budget and became need-blind in admission. Hamilton is one of only about 50 U.S. colleges and universities that are need-blind in admission and that meet 100 percent of their students' demonstrated financial need.

Before arriving at USC in 1999, Stewart was a member of the faculty at North Carolina State University (1973-1999) and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (1985-1997). In 1988-89, Stewart served as the chair of the North Carolina Humanities Council, and in 1977 she received NC State University's Outstanding Teaching Award. She also served as Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Programs for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Stewart graduated summa cum laude in 1965 from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, New York. She then

see President Stewart, page 3

School officials support student protesters

*from **Protest**, page 1*

are no longer hanging from trees. These strange fruit are in the hands of our police."

Students were then invited to lay in the street, on the sidewalk, or anywhere else they were comfortable for the "die-in" portion of the protest, which lasted four and a half minutes to symbolize the four and a half hours that Michael Brown's body remained in the street after he was shot.

Gabe Rivas '16, who held the megaphone for Joseph and Tsegaye during their opening remarks, admitted that he initially did not plan on attending the protest. Although Rivas saw the non-indictments as terrible injustices, the verdicts did not surprise him. "It's a reality that I, along with just about every person of color that I know have been facing for our entire lives," Rivas explained. "When it comes time to speak about those injustices and institutional racism with my peers here at Hamilton, the apathy and ignorance I've witnessed and heard have discouraged me from wanting to even voice my opinion, because I don't want to put up with the ignorance I feel I'm bound to face…[I] feel like if I were to voice my opinion, especially at Hamilton, it would be a hopeless endeavor. So I just go about my business and try to avoid and ignore any comments from ignorant students, faculty and social media."

When Rivas stopped to say hello to Joseph and Tsegaye before the protest began, however, he ended up helping them fix a broken megaphone. "After Naomi and Jorett's speeches, I was beginning to feel empowered, not only by their words, but also by the large crowd who had gathered to participate in the walk-out," Rivas said. "I can honestly say, that was one of the first times I felt empowered and supported with regard to my views on racism in this country at Hamilton."

After the four and a half minutes of silence, students, faculty and staff moved into the crosswalk of College Hill Road, repeating, "Black lives matter," "Brown lives matter," "No justice, no peace, no racist police," and other resistance chants. "We planned on taking the protest to the street and shutting it down," Tsegaye stated. "We wanted as much power as we could have. We wanted students to understand that they own the school."

After several minutes of occupying the crosswalk and stopping traffic on College Hill Road, Kirkland Police were called in to break up the protest. The protesters remained resolute, refusing to clear the road and be silenced. Eventually, the Kirkland Police Department called for backup from the State Police. Administrators and faculty members spoke to the protesters, warning them that police might resort to arrest in order to clear the road.

Once State Police were called, Sidney Wertimer Professor of Philosophy Todd Franklin stepped into the street to address students. He applauded their efforts at making a statement, but urged them to consider the potential serious consequences of their actions.

Director of Campus Safety Francis Manfredo negotiated with State Police to redirect College Hill Road traffic to Griffin Road. "I was happy the students were able to vent their frustration and have their voices heard during yesterday's protest," Manfredo said. "My primary concern at Hamilton is the safety and well-being of students and community members. I was grateful to the participants for making it a peaceful and meaningful event."

Tsegaye was thankful for Manfredo's efforts in the protest. "He was concerned for our safety and did everything he could," Tsegaye said. "Initially, I personally found the State Police to be rude. However, once faculty and administrators stepped in, their attitude changed." To Tsegaye, faculty members were the most influential and helpful people at the protest. "They were not afraid to step in and protect us from getting arrested," she remarked.

Faculty who attended the protest came from a variety of disciplines, and several vocalized their support for students' action by speaking in front of the crosswalk or even leading some resistance chants. Associate Professor of Africana Studies Nigel Westmaas held a sign that read, "Hamilton Faculty Need to Speak Out."

"There are faculty and students on this campus who hold and express a sincere but false notion of education as value free, nonpolitical, and restricted to the classroom," Westmaas said. "Sometimes the best education is outside the classroom and in the streets."

"A moment is not a movement," Professor Franklin noted. "As many students were taking a stand, one lone student—a white male—decided that he would…step through people lying on ground as opposed to taking a path around them."

However, Franklin remains hopeful that this moment can turn into something greater for the Hamilton community, stating that the student who walked through the protest "was one, we were many—let this reality strengthen the resolve of all to stand up and step forward in solidarity with everyone devoted to recognizing and respecting our shared humanity."

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

College officials worked with law enforcement to redirect traffic.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Writer

Bowdoin disciplines students who dressed as Native Americans

Bowdoin Dean of Student Affairs Tim Foster sent an all-campus email Tuesday evening announcing that the College will take disciplinary action against students who dressed up as Native Americans at an off-campus party before Thanksgiving, according to *The Bowdoin Orient*. Foster's e-mail said the party, called "Cracksgiving" was hosted by members of the men's lacrosse team and students were urged to attend "wearing your finest Thanksgiving attire."

"For some, wearing a headdress and 'war paint' on one's face and bare chest is just harmless fun. For others, it is cultural appropriation that demonstrates poor judgment and insensitivity. And for others still, it is a racist act that perpetuates prejudice, promotes hurtful stereotypes, and demeans others. Especially disturbing is that the hosts of this event knew—or should have known—that their actions would offend; yet they went ahead with their plans nonetheless," Foster wrote in his e-mail. "Unfortunately, none of this is new. Last year, there was a similar party that prompted members of our faculty and the Native American Student Association to create programming aimed at raising awareness about cultural appropriation and why it is unwelcome at Bowdoin. The event was covered in the *Bowdoin Orient*. And just a few weeks ago, in anticipation of Halloween and 'Cracksgiving,' student leaders held a 'Cultural Appropriation Fashion Show' hoping to educate students about inappropriate costumes. Many got the point and decided not to wear costumes to "Cracksgiving." But others, including some of the party hosts who knew about and/or attended these educational efforts, chose to willfully ignore the message."

Middlebury approves plan for Intercultural Center

Last week, Dean of the College and Vice President for Student Affairs Shirley Collado announced the approval of a new Intercultural Center in Middlebury's Carr Hall. According to *The Middlebury Campus*, the center will provide students with a space which celebrates diversity on campus and is dedicated to students of color, first-generation students, LGBTQ students and other members of underrepresented groups.

"The new center will serve the entire campus community and will build on Middlebury's diversity and inclusion initiatives and the academic mission of the Center for Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)," Collado said. "The combination of these centers in Carr Hall will offer substantive opportunities for students, faculty and staff to interact across academic and student life."

Collado added that the College hopes to launch the center in fall 2015.

"The implementation phase of the new center will begin this coming spring and summer and will include: the naming, space usage, access and cosmetic renovations. We hope that several students will want to be involved in the implementation phase of the new center. We are very grateful for the broad support for the creation of this important resource for students and the larger college community," Collado said.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Jeter connects with Hamilton community

*from **Great Names**, page 1*

called "extremely close," and "always present," in helping him achieve his goals. His new book *The Contract*, the debut book in the Jeter Publishing imprint, is inspired by his childhood and highlights hard work and education—both concepts his family emphasized.

Jeter explained that these concepts helped him develop his focus, which fueled his competitive drive. Jeter felt he and the late Yankees owner George Steinbrenner had similar mindsets when it came to competition and a desire to win.

Throughout Jeter's career, the shortstop was active in charity work through the Turn 2 Foundation, an organization he founded in 1996. One subsection of the foundation is Jeter's Leaders, created to recognize, empower and enhance the skills of high school students. Jeter specifically emphasized the importance of social change and making sure young people's voices are heard. He referred to athletes' responsibility to use their platform to inspire conversation, specifically referencing recent events in Ferguson, MO and the death of Eric Garner.

Reynolds noted that Jeter seems to be lowering his guard recently and speaking more on private matters. Jeter disagreed, noting that there are new avenues of his professional life he is open to sharing but emphasized that there is a boundary between everyone's professional life and private life.

Many wonder what is next for the future hall of famer. In addition to his publishing company, Jeter has launched a digital presence via a website called The Player's Tribune, a medium designed to communicate athletes' perspectives on various issues. While Jeter insists he would not coach or manage professionally, his next dream is to be part of an ownership and "call the shots."

Jeter remarked about the abundance of wealthy Hamilton alumni, joking one of them could help him form an ownership group. Legendary Entertainment CEO Thomas Tull '92 is already a business partner of Jeter's. Tull, who is a minority owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and a board member for the Baseball Hall of Fame, is an investor in The Player's Tribune.

In addition to the event in the Field House, Jeter met with a group of student-athletes for a question and answer session.

Stewart acknowledged trustee Sara Weinstein '02 for helping to make the event possible. Jeter's honorarium for the event was directed to the Turn 2 Foundation.

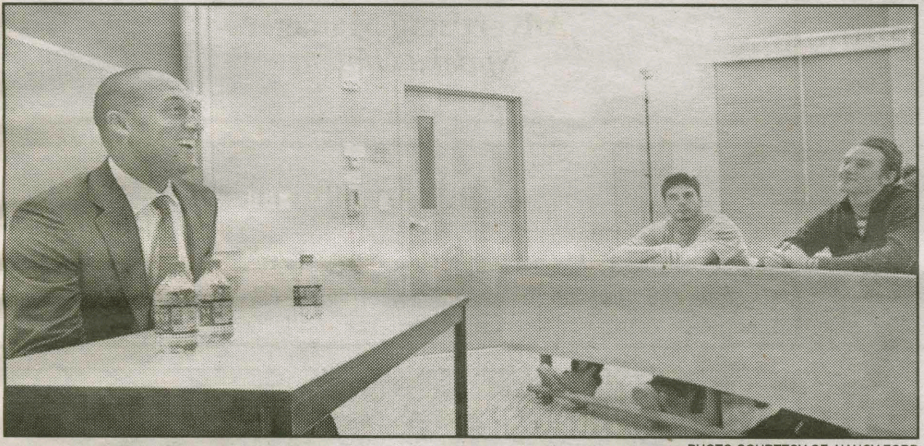


PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY FORD

Jeter chats with student-athletes in the Science Center before the event in the Field House.

President Stewart to step down in June 2016

*from **Retirement**, page 1*

received her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1970. Stewart's studies focus on 18th-century French literature, most notably works of women authors. On this topic, she has written several books and numerous articles, essays and book reviews and has been a frequent speaker at professional conferences both in the United States and abroad.

She currently serves on the Committee on Coherence at Scale for Higher Education, the Council on Library and Information Resources' effort to examine emerging national-scale digital projects and their potential to help transform higher education.

Stewart received various fellowships from Yale University, the National Humanities Center and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition, she has been named a fellow at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France, a visiting scholar at Oxford University in England, and a fellow at the Liguria Study Center for the Arts and Letters in Bogliasco, Italy. The president has also co-taught a seminar on the early modern novel in England and France with Professor of English Emeritus John H. O'Neill.

"My profound gratitude goes to each of you for all you have done to make Hamilton one of America's finest institutions of higher education, a model and an inspiration to others," Stewart said. "I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in my remaining time here, and to all that our College will become in her third century."

Hamilton's 19th president is married to Philip Stewart, who retired as the Benjamin E. Powell Emeritus Professor of Romance Studies at Duke University. The couple has two grown children.

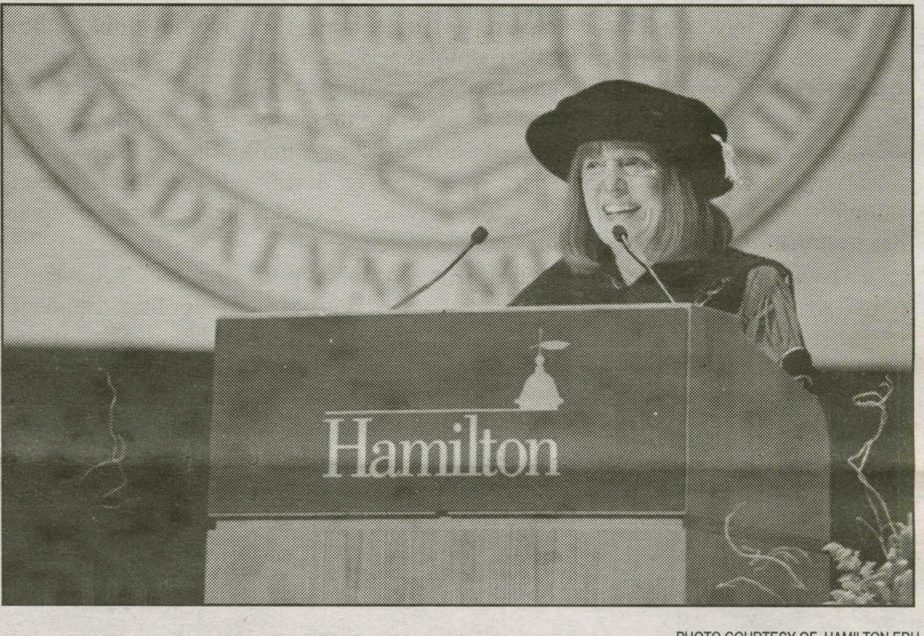


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON.EDU

Stewart became president in July 2003 and served during the College's bicentennial celebration in 2012.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator*. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, December 4, 2014

6:56 p.m. Bias Incident (Sexual Orientation) – College Hill Road

7:01 p.m. Fire Alarm Activation – Days-Massolo Center

11:45 p.m. Noise Complaint – South Hall

Friday, December 5, 2014

1:35 a.m. Area Check – Minor Theater Construction Site

2:28 a.m. Disorderly Conduct – Bundy Dining Hall

2:12 p.m. Possible Natural Gas Leak – Minor Residence Hall

4:12 p.m. Check the Welfare – Residence Hall

4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – Turf Field Lot

8:36 p.m. Motorist Assist – Bundy East

8:40 p.m. Area Check for MVA – College Hill Road

11:26 p.m. Medical Emergency – Tolles Pavilion

Saturday, December 6, 2014

12:54 a.m. Marijuana Complaint – Milbank Hall

3:24 a.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Milbank Hall

10:40 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation – Griffin Road Apts.

10:59 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation – Sage Rink

11:38 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation – Sage Rink

2:07 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Skenandoa House

11:27 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – South Hall

11:35 p.m. Marijuana Complaint – South Hall

Sunday, December 7, 2014

12:41 a.m. Medical Emergency – Sage Rink

1:10 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

1:38 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

4:32 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Dunham Hall

3:00 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

5:30 p.m. Harassment – Commons Dining Hall

Reflecting upon another semester

Believe it or not, the fall semester is drawing to a close. As more and more snow begins to fall and Hamilton students spend dreadful amounts of time in the Library in preparation for the upcoming exams, *The Spectator* is reflecting upon the major events of this semester.

The Fall 2014 semester been very eventful for students on Hamilton's campus. In September, students fought Jitney policy changes that required students to both pay a dollar and be 21-years-old to go downtown. The faculty also hosted a teach-in to protest the events in Ferguson, MO this past summer. October featured The Movement's involvement in the campus' trans-rights movement in advocating for more gender neutral bathrooms of campus. In November, students advocated for better energy efficiency on campus when it became clear that Hamilton could not possibly win the NY6 regional competition for the Campus Conservation Nations due to its dependence on fossil fuels for heating certain residence halls. Finally, in December, we saw undoubtedly the most dramatic example of student activism that Hamilton College students have engaged: the "die-in" protest against racial-profiling and police brutality.

In the beginning of the semester, *The Spectator* chastised the apathy of students who declined to participate in the "Make a Difference Day" hosted by HAVOC. As a staff, we expressed dissatisfaction with the student body's lack of engagement with the community and, franky, its refusal to take action or use its voice. Nevertheless, throughout the course of the semester, Hamilton students—and even some faculty members—have proven to be great activists. An eclectic group of student organizations have stood up, voiced their opinions and proclaimed that the status quo was unacceptable. Whether or not you agree with any individual groups' particular position, it is inspiring when a group of students stands up for what they believe in.

Not only have students attempted to change things for what they think is the better, they have done so using methods that are unique and profound. For example, HEAG protested wasted food in Commons by collecting and weighing Hamilton students' uneaten food. While it is not new, The Movement's method papering their various demands all over campus is always a surprise and a large topic of conversation. Finally, the die-in was most exciting form of protest that we at *The Spectator* have seen during our collective time at Hamilton. Students blocked traffic, faced off with the police, risked arrest and disrupted campus in order to draw attention to problem of police violence.

The world needs leaders who are willing to stand up for what they believe in, despite the popularity of the ideas. The protests that occurred this past semester forced students to engage in sometimes uncomfortable, but necessary conversations. At a liberal arts college like Hamilton, we all grow from these dialogues, so it is important to keep speaking our minds.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

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Celebrating our 166th year in print. First published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $60 per year. For more information about subscriptions e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Letters to the Editor

Update on Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

Dear Community Members:

In response to recent conversations around diversity and inclusion, we wanted to update the campus on some progress and ongoing efforts at the College.

• A Working Group on Diversity & Inclusion was established by President Stewart in the fall as an ongoing body to recommend and implement changes. This group will host two town hall meetings in the first two weeks of the spring semester. An email sent earlier this week outlined the work of this group thus far, and we anticipate significant additional progress in the spring.

• The Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) has set up a faculty subcommittee to explore diversity issues in the curriculum. This subcommittee hosted an informal meeting last week and received valuable feedback from students. This subcommittee is considering many options and will make recommendations to the faculty, which votes on all curricular matters. For more information, we encourage you to contact Professors Steve Wu, Nancy Rabinowitz, Karen Brewer and Steve Orvis. The subcommittee members will also be present at the town hall meetings hosted by the Working Group on Diversity & Inclusion.

• A small committee of administrators has been working with leaders from the Rainbow Alliance to discuss options for all-gender restrooms. A tentative plan was presented to the Student Assembly for feedback, and we anticipate changes in the near future.

• There has been a call to archive the history of the Social Justice Initiative, a student group that helped create the Days-Massolo Center. The DMC has already started an archive, including a digital archive of Womyn's Energy Weekend posters. Anyone interested in working on archiving diversity and inclusion efforts at the College should contact me (Amit) directly.

• All new students are required to attend a two-hour diversity session which explicitly includes past incidents of bias. We will continue to update this training and help our new students understand the past, while also focusing on how to create a more inclusive campus community.

• All new faculty members already participate in a diversity training session during new faculty orientation. This year a student panel was added to discuss diversity issues in the classroom. Additionally, for the past three years, the DMC has offered additional training for faculty members titled "Difficult Dialogues" which includes actual diversity scenarios collected from students on the Hamilton campus. More than 60 faculty members have participated in Difficult Dialogues.

• The Days-Massolo Center has hosted a variety of staff trainings with different campus constituents, including the Dean of Students Office, Campus Safety, Communications and Development and the Office of Admission and Financial Aid, to name a few. We will continue offering these trainings in the future.

• We have received and heard the call for transportation support, especially for breaks. A committee is studying cost-effective and long-term ways to provide transportation to airports, train and bus stations for breaks. In the meantime, President Stewart has agreed to subsidize our current program to make it more affordable for all students. Rates for remaining breaks this year are now as follows:

- Syracuse Hancock Airport: $25
- Albany Airport: $40
- Bus to NYC or Boston: $50
- Utica Train Station: $5

• We have created a new web-based rideshare application where students can share cabs or arrangements to travel home. Faculty and staff can also offer rides through this website. More information is available at https://my.hamilton.edu/rideshare

• The Student Emergency Aid Society (SEAS) has already assisted several students with transportation issues and continues to be a resource for students, especially for emergency travel and for those who remain on campus during breaks.

• Furthermore, for Thanksgiving break, without solicitation from students, SEAS ensured that students with financial constraints had access to meals without having to ask for such assistance. We are investigating long-term solutions, such as keeping at least one dining facility open during breaks to make this process easier for students.

• The Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) strives to investigate and educate the campus community about bias issues. Dean Allen Harrison sends a message at the start of each semester reminding the campus community about BIRT, and we will create posters to publicize the committee and its work. Student representatives were added to this team based on recommendations made last semester. We will continue our commitment to a safe and hate-free campus, and will publish a record of past incidents on our website.

We are committed to working with students to create a better, stronger, safer and more inclusive Hamilton and look forward to building on the good work already begun.

Sincerely,

Amit Taneja, Director of Diversity & Inclusion
Nancy Thompson, Dean of Students

Community should be proud of its students for speaking out

The profiling and killings by police officers or self-appointed vigilantes of unarmed African-Americans and the recent controversy over New York City's infamous stop-and-frisk policy police profiling of people of color may finally be generating a real national conversation about systematic, ingrained racism in our criminal justice system and society at large. At Hamilton, the conversation was most recently manifest in a Dec. 1 community-wide meeting and a Dec. 4 protest that blocked traffic on College Hill Road.

Both events have been criticized by conservatives on this campus and at the Alexander Hamilton Institute, as seen in the publication *Enquiry* and on social media. The most recent miscarriage of justice in the case of Eric Garner, a man choked to death by those employed by the public "to serve and protect," seems to have finally provoked outrage across the political spectrum. I therefore imagine—and hope—that some of these critics are having second thoughts. Still, several arguments seem to be in play.

First, in highlighting oppressive structures through protest, Hamilton students are said to be criticizing a power structure from which they benefit and so are acting like spoiled, privileged hypocrites. Ironically, this argument sounds suspiciously Marxist: one has to act as a member of one's economic class. Yes, many Hamilton students are privileged, but that does not mean that one cannot know and critically reflect on one's privilege, and use one's resources to change the world. I would argue that the privileged are obligated to address injustices that have given them an unfair advantage.

And there are many Hamilton students who are not privileged. They come from groups victimized by systemic racism, racism that does not care where you go to school, where you live, what you earn, who you are as an individual. Suspicion by police and shopkeepers, prejudice by prospective employers and racial insensitivity or hostility by classmates—including disgusting remarks on Hamilton Secrets—make bigotry a daily, lived experience for people of color, even at elite liberal arts colleges. Systemic racism also means that government institutions charged with protecting one's rights can instead threaten one's existence. I have heard too many African-American parents describe how they have to preemptively instruct their children on dealing with police officers, lest they end up in jail or worse. At the community meeting, black and Latino students conveyed a real sense of fear and frustration, a sense that their lives and persons are of secondary worth. How could they do that otherwise than speaking out?

The second argument seems to be that the protesters should be focusing on their education, and that protest is inappropriate, silly or pointless for college students. This argument assumes that the college campus is either a monastic hideaway disconnected from societal concerns or little more than a pre-professional training ground. In fact, the liberal arts tradition puts a premium on critically engaging the world, and I would include political engagement here. A healthy college campus is a civically active community. Moreover, public protest and other forms of political engagement are integral to a democratic society and to a complete education. A protest blocking College Hill Road will not by itself end racial injustice, but political dialogue and change partly emerge from thousands of conversations and actions at the grassroots. As for those who may be inconvenienced by protesters blocking traffic…well, that's what protest does—it inconveniences, so as to call attention to injustice.

The third argument is that Dean Nancy Thompson and President Joan Stewart, in issuing statements that implied disagreement with the recent non-indictments of police officers, are acting in a partisan manner. Again, this cuts to the mission of a college campus. Colleges and universities are not isolated from society at large. In fact, as places of knowledge, opportunity and critical reflection, and as the training ground for future leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, thinkers and artists, they have a role to play in upholding and perfecting the values of a truly free and democratic society. Moreover, they are privileged institutions that benefit from the largesse of government and/or the private sector, and have an obligation to give back to society. When confronted with an injustice as profound as the serial killing or harassment of African-American citizens by police forces—even when the facts of a specific case may still be at issue—college officials should take a stand. Indeed, this is one of the defining civil rights issues of our day and it affects all members of the Hamilton community.

I want to add that I am proud of our students who spoke up at the community meeting and who took part in the protest. The depth of racial injustice in our society is truly depressing and dispiriting, but our students give us some reason to hope.

—Peter Cannavo, Associate Professor of Government

Derek Jeter: a lackluster speaker

by Brendon Kaufman '15
Opinion Contributor

As Hamilton College counted the days until Derek Jeter's arrival, I was also excited to see the prolific figure. How could a long-time baseball player such as me miss out on someone with Great Bambino-esque nicknames, such as "Captain Clutch" and "Mr. November?" Clearly, the man is accomplished, with five World Series championships and 14 all-star selections, all done without so much as a speck of dirt on his professional record. I told my friends who are Red Sox or Mets fans that going to see Jeter is a no-brainer. However, I wasn't going out to the ballpark where Jeter is sure to shine. Instead, I headed out to the Bundy Field House. Having only heard his short, post-game interviews, I wondered about his talents for public discourse.

Turns out, they're nothing to write home about. Jeter started out with the subject of his new book, *The Contract*, which is based on an agreement Jeter and his father made when he was young. Every year, he would sign a "contract" stating that he would work hard in school, and only then could he play sports. What's the moral of the story? Focus on your academics. Be committed. Does that sound like anything new?

Jeter's description of his path to success echoed that of so many before him: he valued education. He relied on the structure implemented by his father, and was determined to fulfill his childhood dream. Although the jersey-wearing children in the seats around me were brimming with excitement, I just didn't hear anything of note. His speech simply paralleled the oft-repeated mantras of any other American hero.

Maybe it was the fact that Jeter was prompted by some less-than-creative questions from interviewer Harold Reynolds, who rarely answered with anything more than an empty "That's good stuff," or "You're a funny guy, Derek." Perhaps Jeter was tired from a long trip through the Central New York tundra, followed by sessions with Hamilton student-athletes and a press conference open to local media. The point is that, when friends asked me what I thought about Jeter's speech, I had little more to say than "meh."

Now, I certainly don't think Jeter's lackluster performance resulted from his being overly protective about his image. Rather, Jeter simply lacked the magic required to weave a story into something inspiring, a feat accomplished by many other athletes and coaches. For example, Vince Lombardi comes to mind. Lombardi is the namesake of the Super Bowl trophy and was the Green Bay Packers coach in the 1960s. Along with others like Jimmy Valvano, Lombardi knew how to take their experiences and transform them into inspiring speeches. They mastered rhetoric, employing myriad techniques such as intonation, metaphor and narrative.

You might ask why I would expect such impressive discourse for someone who is only known for their skills at shortstop. On the contrary, I really didn't expect much. However, I suppose spending thousands of dollars should not go unquestioned. Jeter's responses just made me think that I was simply watching another press conference of a long-serving senator. This begs the question: Why did we bring Jeter here in the first place?

HAMILTON.EDU

The quality of Jeter's speech has attracted attention to his high fee.

Thumbs Up

Go See *Zoo Story*: if you don't, you're a bunch of animals.

Paws to Relax: the only time tender, innocent affection has ever happened in the Annex.

Derek Jeter in the Field House: who's going to tell him that Neon Hitch wore a neon pink onesie and gave a lap dance on that very same stage?

Thumbs Down

Joanie's retiring: donations to the retirement fund can be made in the form of Proust essays and authentic, French pronunciations of "Bon Appetit."

FYE Winners got amazing prizes: prizes for the Senior Year Experience include mild insomnia, extreme self-loathing and a series of traumatic stress dreams.

Pizza salad at Euphoria: and "turkey pepperoni pizza salad" is the most horrifying combination of words since "cumulative final."

Who Cares?

Senior gift karaoke night: first person to sing "money can't buy you class" will automatically become valedictorian.

Cowspiracy film showing: it's utterly moo-ving.

Our last TUTD ever: good timing, cause after 3 years, we're officially out of Chair Massage Tuesday jokes.

by Shea Crockett '15 and Wynn Van Dusen '15

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Letter to the Editor
Regarding Title IX and the OCR complaint

Dear Editor,

I write in response to concerns expressed by Student Assembly and *The Spectator* editorial staff about the recent complaint filed with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). As Title IX Coordinator, I am determined to be as transparent as possible regarding the College's sexual misconduct policy and procedures. I regularly seek opportunities to speak about Title IX with students at Student Assembly meetings, SAVES Peer Advocate trainings, New Student Orientation and RA trainings. In September, the Title IX Task Force, which I chaired, hosted a community forum to receive feedback on the proposed changes to our policy and procedures. In all of these gatherings and educational conversations, I also make clear that I am firmly committed to privacy in specific cases.

I understand that some students are wondering why the College did not notify the student body of the OCR inquiry. The College does not make public announcements when it is notified of legal proceedings, nor can we comment about the particulars of a case. When such a proceeding becomes public, we are able to confirm or deny the existence of the matter, and we can educate our community about the legal process and/or the College policies at issue. The information I shared with Brian Sobotko for last week's *Spectator* article adhered to that practice.

Any person dissatisfied with a Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Board (HSMB) outcome—whether that individual is a complainant or respondent—is entitled to file a complaint with OCR. We did not receive the actual complaint in this situation, but simply were notified by OCR that a complaint was filed regarding a particular matter and were asked to provide information about the case and about our Title IX education efforts generally. As reported in *The Spectator,* an OCR complaint and investigation are not indicative that the College or anyone else has done anything wrong or improper. For privacy reasons and out of concern for the parties involved, I will not comment further about the specific HSMB case that is the subject of the complaint.

Best wishes for a successful end of the semester, and a restful winter break.

—Meredith Harper Bonham, Senior Associate Dean of Students/ Title IX Coordinator

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Evan Abelson '16

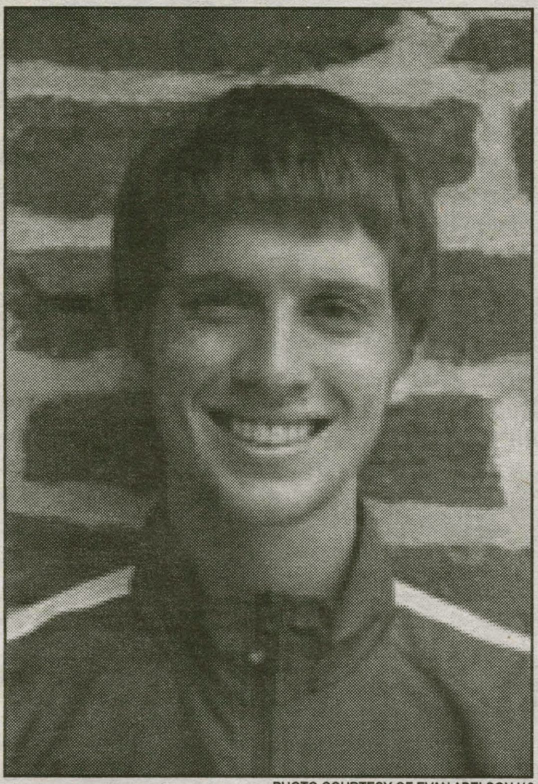


PHOTO COURTESY OF EVAN ABELSON '16

Hometown: *Greenfield, MA.*
Home on Campus: *Carnegie 207.*
Major: *Environmental Studies.*
Turn On? *Fresh cinnamon knots.*
Turn Off? *Skim milk if you actually prefer the taste.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *The farmhouse, my time here is limited.*
Lights on or lights off? *I sleep with a nightlight, so there isn't a choice.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *R. Kelly and Avril Lavigne, does any more need to be said?*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"We sell more cars than Ford, Chrysler, Chevrolet and Buick combined."—Matchbox*
What TV genre best describes you? *Uncomfortable comedies.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Is there a steak house nearby? Because something around here is sizzling.*
What's your type? *Anyone who can't help but laugh at terrible puns.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Peanut butter, running and Tim Meadows.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Hub, at least it sounds like it could be fun.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The community farm.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Yodapez.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *A pigeon, so graceful and majestic.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I would park in the faculty lots, it would be so convenient.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Snack time in the library.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *The lack of a gondola lift from KJ to the Science Center.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Alex Reading... sorry, Adam.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Hillary Joy.*
What would your perfect date be? *April 1st.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A macaroon in a fish bowl.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Changing the speed on the toaster when I put my bagel in first.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Brussel sprouts, that way I wouldn't get eaten.*

Sabrina Yurkofsky '15

PHOTO COURTESY OF SABRINA YURKOFSKY '15

Hometown: *Wayland, MA.*
Home on Campus: *Co-Op.*
Major: *Psychology and Communication.*
Turn On? *Waffles.*
Turn Off? *Condescension.*
6. **If you were a dorm which would you be and why?** *The half-built Minor Theater dorms. I also have not yet been cleared by the Department of Health.*
Lights on or lights off? *On. My hand-eye coordination is bad enough as it is.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"I want to eat your cereal!"*
What TV genre best describes you? *Failed ABC Family sitcom.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Catcalling has a low success rate.*
What's your type? *Goudy Old-Style.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Podcasts, comfy pillows, and laughter.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Babbitt Pavilion. I'm only really useful for a month each semester.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Glen walks, where you run into all of the other people who just wanted to be alone.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *HOC, if I had one shred of athleticism.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *Emma Thompson. No explanation needed.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Man, I just want a puppy.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *The Bon Appétit frosted brownies with the M&Ms on them.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *The film* Gladiator.
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Indie Jillings. I'm drawn to rejection.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *JOANIE I MISS YOU ALREADY BB <33*
What would your perfect date be? *Just hand me a bag of Reese's Pieces, and all will be well.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *My embroidery of Bane singing "Blurred Lines."*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Study room hoarding.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Cinnamon because I'm great in small doses.*

DIY Christmas Gift Ideas

by Nathan Arndt '16
Features Contributor

Picture Collage

DANIELPHAM.COM

A picture collage is easy to make and a great way to remind someone how much they like spending time with you. Perhaps one of the best ways to say "I don't have any money or useful crafting skills, but dammit I love you."

Baked Goods

WILLIAMKRISTOPH.COM

Everyone loves baked goods, almost as much as they love the people who bake them. Baked goods can also be made in large batches and given to everyone you didn't think to get a more personal gift for.

Food Assortments

4.BP.BLOGSPOT.COM

The best thing about a food assortment is that you don't actually have to be good at baking or make anything yourself. All you need is an aesthetic container and food. Simply put the food in the container, give it to your friends and voila! Your acquaintances will want to be your friends and your friends will want to keep being your friend.

Knitting

HIPSTITCHABQ.COM

Not many people know how to knit, but if you do, your friends and family will certainly appreciate the 30 or 40 hours you took out of your life to knit that beautiful sweater. Of course, a scarf or pair of socks is cute too...ok, just one sock, you really shouldn't have started this project during finals week.

Custom Tees

RLV.ZCACHE.COM

Much like a knit item, a custom T-Shirt is something you can make while on your couch. However, unlike the knit item you don't need specific practical skills. Simply go on your computer, play around with the in-browser designer and then have a company do the hard part for you. Your friend will wear it around campus with pride as your other friends think, "Why didn't he/she get me a gift?"

Decorated Mugs

ARTFUL-KIDS.COM

If you're good at drawing on curved surfaces, a decorative mug is another great way to show your friends how much you appreciate them. Just go to the store, buy a mug, oilbased pens and an oven. (Pens and ovens can also be borrowed.) Draw on your mug, put it in an oven to allow the ink to cure, and you're done. (More detailed instructions can be found at http://www.livingwellspendingless.com/2014/02/10/sharpie-mug/)

Senior Reflection

Be-You-tiful

by Jose Vazquez '15
Features Contributor

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE VAZQUEZ '15

Want to know the only thing that I know about my time at Hamilton? It is that I do not have it figured out. My years at Hamilton have been a whirlwind of mistakes, achievements, diner breakfasts and Beyoncé dance parties.

I used to define "success" as something I had to achieve through hours of extracurricular activities and intense studying. It felt as if I was running on a treadmill gone haywire where I couldn't keep up with the standards I thought were expected of me. Thankfully, after going abroad and some slaps of reality from close friends, I'm currently reflecting on what "success" means in my life. I think Maya Angelou said it best when she wrote, "Success is about liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." The following are three things that have helped me reach inner confidence on this campus:

(1) Be Present
(2) Be Thankful
(3) Be-you-tiful

Be Present

On the first day of Adirondack Adventure, Andrew Jillings famously states, "Be Here Now." There is no way you can "Know Thyself" without learning to live in the moment and be consciously aware of your actions. Here are some tips borrowed from friends that have kept me living in the moment:

- Ignore your phone when having a conversation with a friend or eating dinner.
- Stop telling yourself you are "too busy." Prioritize time and stop watching Taylor Swift music videos for hours on end.
- Keep a journal, or give yourself some time every week to reflect on what you've done and what you've learned. Many repeated mistakes could have been avoided had I actually recorded and processed those situations in the first place.
- Have a solo dance party in your room, and take yourself out of the work grind (Shakira is my usual go-to).
- "Treat. Yo. Self."–Tom Haverford (eat that Opus cookie and share it with someone).

Being present means you are cognizant of your surroundings and asking yourself questions. What do I enjoy? What are my strengths? When am I my best self? Personally, I do best when I work around people and listen to Natasha Bedingfield. Listening to yourself and prioritizing where you'd like to be "present" at Hamilton can do wonders.

Be Thankful

My life at Hamilton dramatically improved when I looked around and starting thanking the people who carried me through difficult times at the College. After watching multiple TED talks last year, I finally made a conscious effort to stop stressing over work and benefitted from looking around and recognizing those who make this place better. Rather than preach to the choir, here are people I should be thanking more often:

- Staff for dining halls, Physical Plant and dormitories: You are the reason this institution is sustainable. Dunham bathrooms would be abandoned , we'd be trapped in snow and we wouldn't have food to our disposal. Maureen, Kathy, Christina, Emilio, etc. at McEwen are wonderful and work so hard to keep things efficient.
- Dennis at the Counseling Center: I think you and the staff are the reason I could carry on during my trials at Hamilton. It's the place I can proudly say, "I need help" and not feel stigmatized or insecure.
- Professors: Thanks for taking extra time in your office to have aimless conversations with me or revise my paper for the 80th time. Especially Meghan Dowd, Robert Martin, Susan Mason and Chaise LaDousa. Most of you care so much and I can't express enough gratitude for that type of support.
- My family: Thanks for understanding that being here at Hamilton was the right decision. I know it was hard to let me leave the state but I think we've reached a point where this education paid off. Props to Mama Vazquez for the daily calls since day one of my Hamilton education.

Be-you-tiful

My inner confidence and self-worth grew when I stopped trying to jump to the imagined standards set by my family and friends. I am the best person in my life. That's something I continuously try to remind myself daily when I feel lost or insecure about my own actions. These are some points that validate by bea-you-tifulness:

- Accepting that I learn the most when I make mistakes
- Understanding I'm only human and saying "no" can be really empowering
- Embracing my emotions rather than repress what I'm feeling
- Finding validation in myself rather than solely rely on the approval of others
- Dancing like no one is watching
- Taking control of my actions rather than feeling like a victim of anything

At a recent Hamilton alumni event, I heard someone state, "Hamilton is not a place…it is a state of mind." That state of mind is when we discover ourselves through a liberal arts lens and give ourselves time to reflect on our past experiences. Being present, being thankful and being-you-tiful has helped increase my inner confidence and get closer to figuring out what it means to pursue this education and how it applies to the "real" world. Realizing that people always stumble while navigating college life means you can prioritize your needs without second-doubting those decisions. Hamilton has become that experimental playground for my life and I hope that most of you take risks, make mistakes, continuously reflect and above all, shake it off.

Sex and the Campus

by Kate Cieplicki '16
Features Columnist

This column covers both silly and serious topics about sex and dating from the perspective of a poetry-loving, feminist psychology major. For topic suggestions, questions or other perspectives on sex in college, please email kcieplic@hamilton.edu.

It's that time of winter when a fuzzy layer of leg hair starts to seem extremely appealing. Add the bitter cold to the fact that no one sees my bare legs besides a chosen few (and the people at the gym, but hopefully my legs are moving too fast for them to notice, right?), and you get a girl who is not motivated to shave. My aversion to shaving was further supported by a traumatizing episode in a Dunham shower last week in which, leg propped into a plastic shower crevice, I attempted to shave behind my knee and accidentally gashed not one but two deep cuts into my skin. In pain, I asked a question (post-shower) that I had never really asked myself before: Why do I feel required to shave every couple of days while most men let body hair grow for their entire life?

My initial explanation was social. Every other woman I've ever known shaves her legs. Buying my first razor in middle school was a bonding experience with my mom and a sign that I was growing up. The same went for my first eyebrow wax. Perhaps even more convincing than close others' influence is that fact that the images that I see of "sexy" woman are all hairless: perfectly plucked eyebrows, shaved legs, bare arms and never even a light shadow above the upper lip. Hairless=sexy. But how did the idea of a hairless woman become sexy? After all, hair communicates maturity and, evolutionarily speaking, a readiness to mate. Why does a sexy female body have the same amount of hair as a small child? With these questions in mind, I turned to the internet. Interestingly, my perusing brought to light a fact that I had not considered: the need for women to shave for the general public's satisfaction came about fairly recently since women's clothing throughout much of history has been extremely conservative.

With the emergence of the sleeveless dress in 1915 or so came underarm shaving. By the early 1920s, this trend of removing hair was stuck and has persisted ever since. Similarly, as hem lines rose, so did the amount of leg hair women needed to shave. By the 1940s, hair removal applied to pretty much the entire leg. In Islam, the removal of all body hair including pubic hair is religiously endorsed as clean and preferable. The roots of the bikini wax are likely here but have grown popular fairly recently in America. The attraction to removing pubic hair seems to me to arise from a desire for cleanliness and of course sexiness. Separately, having "down there" clean can also increase sensitivity during sexual activities.

But my brief (and I'm sure incomplete) history lesson did not answer my question of why most American women shave everything. Why is it that when I shave I feel more attractive and put together? Who decided that body hair is not attractive? Why don't we braid our armpit hair and put little beads in it?

Apparently, social scientists have been asking these questions much longer than I have. A few years ago one scholar at Arizona State, Breanne Fahs, gave her female students extra credit if they didn't shave anything for ten weeks and the male students extra credit if they shaved. The purpose of the assignment was to encourage students to question why they adhere to normative gender behaviors (i.e., shaving). Participating female students reported feeling "disgusting and unclean" which Fahs thought was due to internalized sexism.

Though the experience of the students was largely unpleasant, Fahs stands by her perspective that female students should try letting their hair grow, just in case it works for them. She seems to be operating under an assumption I agree with: There is no problem with adhering to gender norms if they work for an individual but there is a problem with adhering to gender norms without asking why you are adhering and if adhering is really what you want to do. Body hair does have some benefits in that it prevents chaffing and (in the case of pubic hair) protects important goods, something that non-shaving women can benefit from.

Curiously, body hair can also make someone more sexually appealing in that it more easily carries pheromones, which produce a person's unique and sexually attracting bodily scent. One social psychological study found that we are attracted to specific pheromones because we are more genetically complimentary to the person producing the pheromones. In the study, girls people rated which sweaty t-shirt smelled the best to them. The men with the "best smelling t-shirt" to any given participant also best matched the girls genetically... weird!

As is often the case with feminist perspectives, I find myself adopting a live and let live mentality. If women shave because it makes them feel sexy and empowered... cool! If, however, they shave to be like a Victoria's Secret model or please a partner, our hair-phobic culture becomes a bit more problematic. On the flip side, if women don't want to shave something or everything, that's totally cool too (maybe we can all start a club...?).

Send feedback, comments, and questions to kcieplic or spec@hamilton.edu.

CAB Comedy presents: Steve Macone and Tommy Ryman

by Brian Burns '17
Arts and Entertainment Editor

At the beginning of finals period, Steve Macone amd Tommy Ryman brought some much-needed laughter to the Barn on Saturday night, Dec. 6.

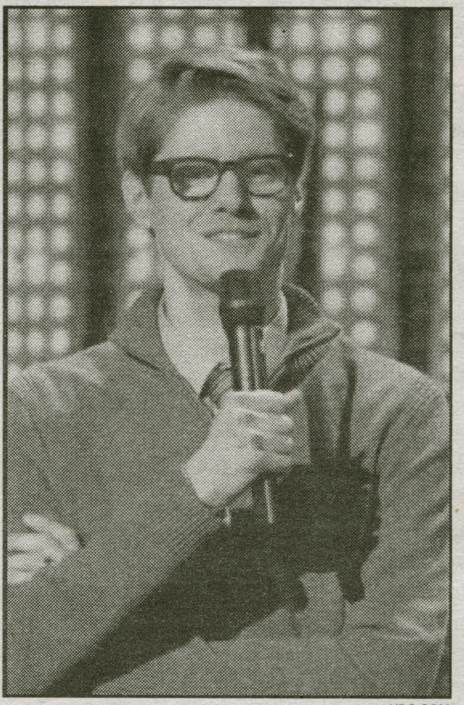
Opening act Macone, a writer for *The New Yorker* and *The Onion*, had an easygoing style. He immediately noted the lack of attendance, deeming the small crowd, "the few, the proud." Like most comedians (including the headliner Ryman), Macone noted the College's rural setting. "I don't know if I've ever been to a village before," he said. "Is it just a Christmas village?" When Macone asked what Hamilton College is known for, there was a hearty shout of "drinking!" that received one of the biggest laughs of the night. Macone's style of comedy was clean; he never dwelled too long on a punchline and moved between jokes with little connective tissue. He tackled controversial issues such as Catholic Church, noting the "cult-like" aspects of mass. Perhaps his most inspired bit was when he compared religion to a game of "telephone" that happened over the course of centuries. Macone also joked about using disproportionate slices of pie to talk about capitalism with his family over Thanksgiving.

A running gag in Macone's routine was his confusion over Hamilton's mascot. Given that the College's mascot, "Alex," is a new presence on campus, even students seemed uncertain. When someone described Alex as a white male, Macone joked, "So your mascot is your core demographic: white male, plays lacrosse, working at his dad's bank after college."

Tommy Ryman, a semifinalist on NBC's *Last Comic Standing* performed next. His more neurotic persona, with hipster-chic glasses and a proclivity for talking fast, invites Woody Allen comparisons. Ryman started with a string of winning jokes. In a classic one-liner, he said he likes to go to the park dressed up in a Little League outfit and complain that his dad never picked him up. Ryman also said that his lava lamp erupted and killed his hamsters in a "Pompeii-like situation."

PHOTO BY BEN MITTMAN '18

As the opening act, Steve Macone had a more relaxed style of comedy than Ryman.



NBC.COM

Ryman was a semifinalist on NBC's *Last Comic Standing*.

His routine became stronger as he launched into personal stories. For example, he shared how he proposed to his wife while playing a game of Hangman in the sand on a beach, and accidentally misspelling "Will you marry me?" An unexpected theme of Ryman's routine was his girlfriend's relationship with animals. He recounted the way she dressed their dog in a costume as well as her attempts to find a proper burial for her dead rat. Other anecdotes ranged from Ryman's breaking a clarinet in half in his youth to his bringing cinnamon rolls rather than dinner rolls to Thanksgiving dinner. Ryman was fast on his feet for the entirety of the performance. When a student mentioned their major was computer science, he pounced with the line, "like *The Sims*?"

Ryman also interacted a lot with the audience, asking for instance if students had ever bought something on Craigslist, and received some interesting answers. One girl proclaimed that she had bought a motorcycle to which Ryman proclaimed, "I did not expect that!" He noted that the audience members, who had remained in small numbers since Macone exited the stage, must have been procrastinating for finals.

Neither comedian was too crass during his routine; in fact, Macone and Ryman were practically family-friendly. Both men touched on the same subjects almost every other comedian at Hamilton does, such as its small size and place in the middle of nowhere (Macone referred to Hamilton as "Lord of the Flies: the College Years"). However, neither comedian went for the easy and lazy target of the College's streaking team. Despite touches of familiarity, CAB's small event of the semester was a pleasant way to spend a Saturday night before diving back into finals work.

Directors' Showcase exhibits students' theatrical talents

by Ryan Cassidy '17
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

Last week, I had the opportunity to take part in an enjoyable Hamilton theatre tradition: the Directors' Showcase. This event included five one-act plays, each directed by students in Directing. In many ways, the Directors' Showcase is a miniature version of a full production process. In early November, the student directors were assigned the plays that they would direct, and the mounting of the Showcase took place over a few short weeks. Auditions were held in mid-November, and the technical and dress rehearsals, as well as the performance itself, happened shortly after Thanksgiving break.

For the directors, the Showcase serves as an opportunity to put the techniques learned in class into practice. Since for many of the students, this is their first directing experience, the fact that each piece is only about ten minutes long keeps the process from being too overwhelming. It also allows the directors to zero in on all the details of the play, so that they can mount the best possible production.

While this process may be a stressful one for the directors (as directing a play often is), every Directing student with whom I have spoken has recommended the class to me. In fact, some have gone as far as saying that, as a Hamilton student, I *need* to take the class.

The Directors' Showcase provides an excellent opportunity for all theatre students on campus. Most actors and acting teachers say that young actors should take every possible opportunity to gain acting experience. For actors, the Directors' Showcase provides a chance, with relatively low time commitment, to gain valuable acting experience. Both students who want to act but are unable to dedicate the time required in a main stage theatre production, and students who take part in the main stages, but are interested in gaining more acting experience, are encouraged to participate in the Directors' Showcase.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

Matt Reinemann '17 (left), Andrew Gibeley '16 (center) and Kelsey Crane '17 (right) perform in *The Harbingers of Turpitude*, directed by Brian Evans '15.

In my own experience, acting in the Director's Showcase is a fast-paced but enjoyable process. The directors of the plays in which I participated this year and last have often been students with whom I have worked in the main stage productions, and it is always interesting to work with them in a new dynamic. Since I have spent time with these students, I am even more motivated to help them realize their goals for each play they direct. Since the time commitment for Directors' Showcase is so small, many people audition, and therefore, I had the chance to work with actors with whom I had not previously worked. It is my belief that the most enjoyable part of theatre is working with different people to create a piece of art that everyone involved cares about deeply. The Directors' Showcase allows many Hamilton students to experience that.

Preview: holiday classic *The Nutcracker* promises to enthrall audiences

by Haley Lynch '17
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This weekend, Utica Dance will come to the Hill to perform Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* accompanied live by the Hamilton College Orchestra, conducted by Associate Professor of Music Heather Buchman. Originally known as the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute Dance Program, Utica Dance is now independently owned and directed by Nancy Long. As a former professional dancer herself, Long is well-equipped to teach all levels of dance students, and works to guide many of them on their paths to continued education and high-level performance at conservatories as well as at liberal arts colleges like Hamilton.

For the last 10 years, Utica Dance has presented its own *Nutcracker* production, but always with the assistance of a pre-recorded orchestra. Long and Buchman became better acquainted last fall when Buchman began taking ballet lessons under Long's instruction. During this time, Buchman attended Utica Dance's performance of *The Nutcracker*. "I was not only impressed by the quality of the performance, but also struck by *The Nutcracker* as an educational vehicle for both dancers and musicians. Naturally it followed that it really should have a live performance," Buchman said of the experience.

Buchman decided that our own Hamilton College Orchestra would be up for the challenge. Much like the pre-professional dancers at Utica Dance who will be performing this weekend, the orchestra is composed mainly of students whose primary focus is not performance. Although the orchestra performs at a very high level, the expectation of most orchestra members is not that they will one day become professional musicians.

Still, producing *The Nutcracker* can hardly be considered a typical extra-curricular activity. Indeed, the score is notoriously difficult, and many dedicated hours of rehearsal on the part of the orchestra were required in order for this music to be perfected. Buchman noted that in order for the project to be successful, the full dedication of her students would be required. Luckily, "They saw the vision of this immediately."

Concertmaster Candice McCardle '15 commented, "I've really appreciated the opportunities I have at Hamilton to participate in ensembles. I can say with all honesty that the Nutcracker has been the most challenging piece of orchestral music I've worked on; that being said it has also been one of the most rewarding."

In addition to the orchestra in the pit, 18 women from the College Choir and College Hill Singers, directed by Marjorie and Robert W. McEwen Professor of Music G. Roberts Kolb, will be singing in the finale of Act I from the catwalk in Wellin, which should generate a captivating surround-sound experience for the audience. To build excitement further, the Utica Dance performers will be joined by Hamilton's own Wilne De Jésus Ledesma Arias '15 for the Russian Dance in Act II. He commented, "I have very much enjoyed being a part of Utica Dance's *The Nutcracker* performance. There is a wonderful energy in this young group of dancers. I get to every rehearsal eager to start working and see what I can learn from them."

This production seems to represent a growing trend towards greater appreciation for the arts at Hamilton. McCardle added, "Every year Hamilton brings a program of incredible performances to the school, which are often times lost in the shuffle of our busy lives. I think this performance is particularly special because it offers students the chance to see a truly timeless and beautiful production at such convenience and proximity."

Truly, *The Nutcracker*, which originally premiered in 1892, represents a perennial holiday classic. This ballet is a cherished tradition full of childhood memories for so many.

Tchaikovsky's original composition includes unusual colors, achieved through his use of woodwinds like English horn and bass clarinet, as well as more unusual instruments such as harp, and most notably, celeste, which is featured in the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." This particularly unconventional instrument is not easy to come by, but it is an essential component of the Tchaikovsky's suite. The 'celeste' that will be used this weekend is actually synthetic, a setup put together by Professor of Music Sam Pellman.

There are many other aspects of this production that make it unique. The sets and props, as well as over 300 costumes, were all sewn and constructed by Long herself, with the help of "an army of volunteers."

Tchaikovsky worked very closely with Marius Petipa, a famed dancer and choreographer, during the process of composing and producing this ballet. Long noted that their relationship is paralleled by this weekend's performance. She said, "After hearing the Hamilton Orchestra and guest musicians run through all their music, I was very impressed by their professional level of performance. I went right back to the studio and told my dancers that the music would inspire us to work even harder. I think working together motivated both groups to be the best they could be." Buchman also commented on the benefits of the collaboration, remarking, "Dancers and musicians have so much to learn from each other, because they work with the identical principles of expression – just music is in sound, and dance is in physical movement. The energy is the same, and they both operate in space, with the same physical laws."

According to Buchman, this ballet has never been produced with a non-professional orchestra, and this weekend's production will be the only performance in Central New York with a live orchestra. Both Buchman and Long recognize the challenges of attending a performance during the weekend leading up to finals, but are nonetheless confident that this magical production is not to be missed.

UTICADANCE.COM

This weekend, Utica Dance will perform The Nutcracker ballet, accompanied live by the Hamilton College Orchestra.

CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse ends semester with Chadwick Stokes and Adrianne Lenker

by Alex Witonsky '17
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

CAB finished off the semester's trio of performances last Thursday night with Chadwick Stokes and Adrianne & Buck. The two acts embodied the folk sensibility that acoustic coffeehouse is known for, and were a fitting cap to a semester that included such diverse acts as veteran singer Shakey Graves and new voice Marc Scibilia.

Adrianne & Buck, each strapped with an acoustic guitar, played deftly through their set. Buck Meeks' low-mid crooning spilled over Adrianne Lenker's phantom warbling, and both were sustained by a plucky pick-style and warm musical tones. This configuration worked well for the twosome. The themes were those of traditional folk: celebration of the song, love lost and won, the city glow, the country dark and the people who are along for the ride. Together, the two musicians had a resounding, full sound that conveyed a deep appreciation for American folk.

After Adrianne & Buck's set, Chadwick Stokes (frontman for State Radio, a band out of Boston) took the stage. Though it was a small gathering in the barn, Stokes is no stranger to large crowds. In 2001, with his indie band Dispatch, he played a show to over 100,000 at Boston's Hatch Shell.

Stokes cultivates a bizarre on-stage aesthetic. He has a professorial shock of hair and face that evoke Robert Plant if he abandoned rock-and-roll to live in the wild. The music was similar in theme to the opening act. Stokes sang of places in his travels, of trains and deserts, of shallow graves and chance encounters with women. His lyrics are adept at construing characters and images. Together, they create vivid stories that ignite the imagination. Stokes' anecdotes—though a bit overdone—enhanced his act by providing background on each song.

Stokes is also a philanthropist and activist for social-rights issues the world over. He sang a song about the eruption of racial conflict in Ferguson and the country at large. His loud guitar riffs served to amplify the emotional content of the song's lyrics.

Most of Stokes' songs evaded easy genre classification. Songs like "Our Lives Our Time" and "I Want You Like A Seatbelt," were somewhere at the intersection of folk, Americana, indie, and classic rock.

Chadwick Stokes put on a great show and closed out an even better series of concerts. You can check out his latest goings-on at www.stateradio.com. His second solo-album, "The Horse Comanche," is due out early next year. Adrianne Lenker and Buck Meek's digital albums *a-sides* and *b-sides* are currently available on Bandcamp for $10 apiece.

PHOTO BY JOHN MCGONNIGAL '17

Stokes is also the frontman of the popular Massachusetts-based band Dispatch in addition to being a human rights activist.

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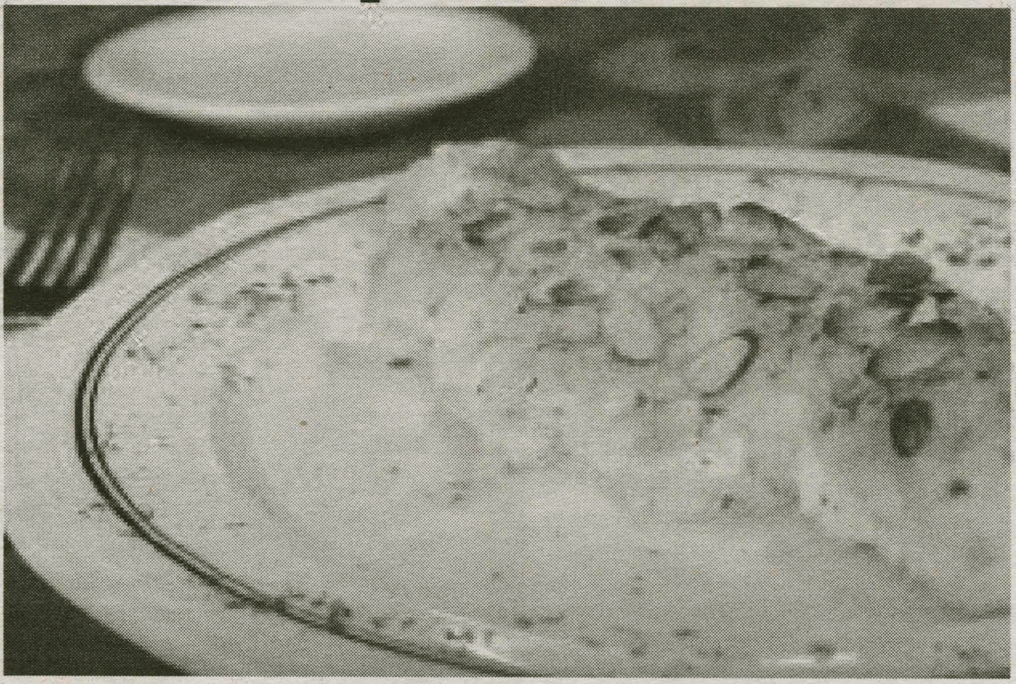

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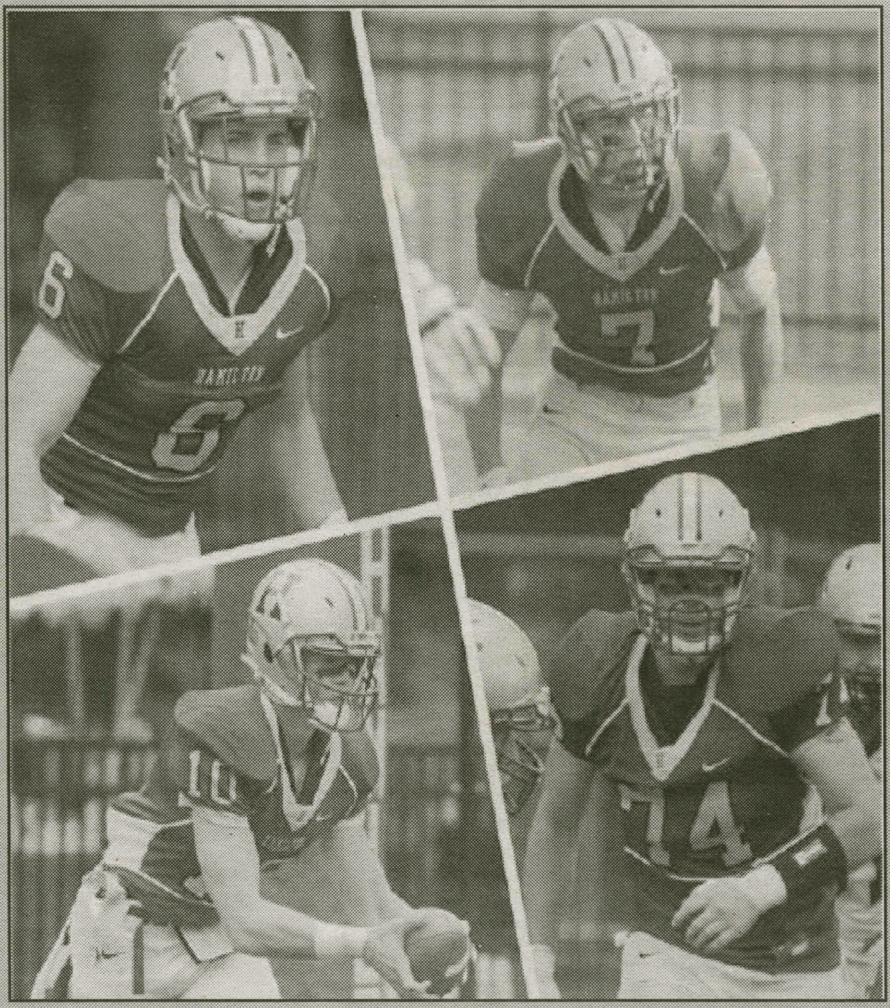
Football captains announced



The football program announced that (from top left) linebacker Cade Larabee '16, defensive back Alex Mitko '16, wide receiver Pat Donahoe '16 and offensive lineman Dylan Berardelli '16 will be the captains for the 2015 season. Larabee and Mitko will captain the defense, while Donahoe and Berardelli headline the offense.

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Senior Athlete of the Week: Tina Choinski

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Choinski is a two-time all-conference selection in the ECAC.

Name: Tina Choinski

Hometown: Hauppauge, NY (Long Island)

Sport: Track

Favorite Professional Athlete?

Derek Jeter

Favorite thing to do on campus besides our sport?

My favorite thing to do on campus is to hang out in Milbank with all of my suitemates! Also, the bowling club is pretty awesome.

How you got introduced to track?

I got introduced to track my freshmen year of high school. I joined with a lot of my friends and I didn't know what to expect since I had never ran competitively before. I instantly fell in love with the competition and mid-distance racing. I owe a lot to my high school coaches for helping me set goals, improve as an athlete, and giving me the support to pursue collegiate running.

What attracted you to Hamilton's T&F program?

Hamilton's track and field program is a well-rounded great group of people. We have athletes at a wide range of abilities that are all working hard to be their best! The coaches are there to support you and help you reach any level of running that you aspire to. On top of that the T&F program is able to find a perfect balance between commitment to athletics and encouraging athletes to excel in academics.

What is the toughest obstacle you have had to overcome in your athletic career?

The toughest obstacle I've had to overcome in my athletic career was trying to juggle being an athlete, while taking pre-med classes at the same time. Both require an immense amount of time and effort. It took a lot of time management (and some late night library sessions), but I'm so happy that I was able to do both!

How has the program evolved over the past four years?

The program has gotten stronger each year, with more athletes qualifying for States and other championship meets. I'm excited for this year especially, we have a very strong freshmen class that had a lot of success this cross country season and I'm eager to see what they can do in track!

Have you fulfilled your expectations for your senior season?

My goals for senior year include improving my 1000 and 800 times. The record for the 1000 is 2:59 and I'm not too far away with a 3:03! I need to work hard and train over winter break and throughout the upcoming season in attempt to break the record!

What was your favorite sports moment at Hamilton?

My favorite sports moment was running the 1000 and the 4x800 at ECAC's at the Armory in NYC. It was a track that I had competed at and loved in high school and it was great to return there and run my best time thus far in the 1000, 3:03. It was also nice to have my family there to watch me race. Also, it was amazing to be able to run in the relay with my teammates and have them run on a killer banked track. ECACs is back at the Armory this year and I aspire to go for the 1000 and relay again!

Squash teams playing up to expectations

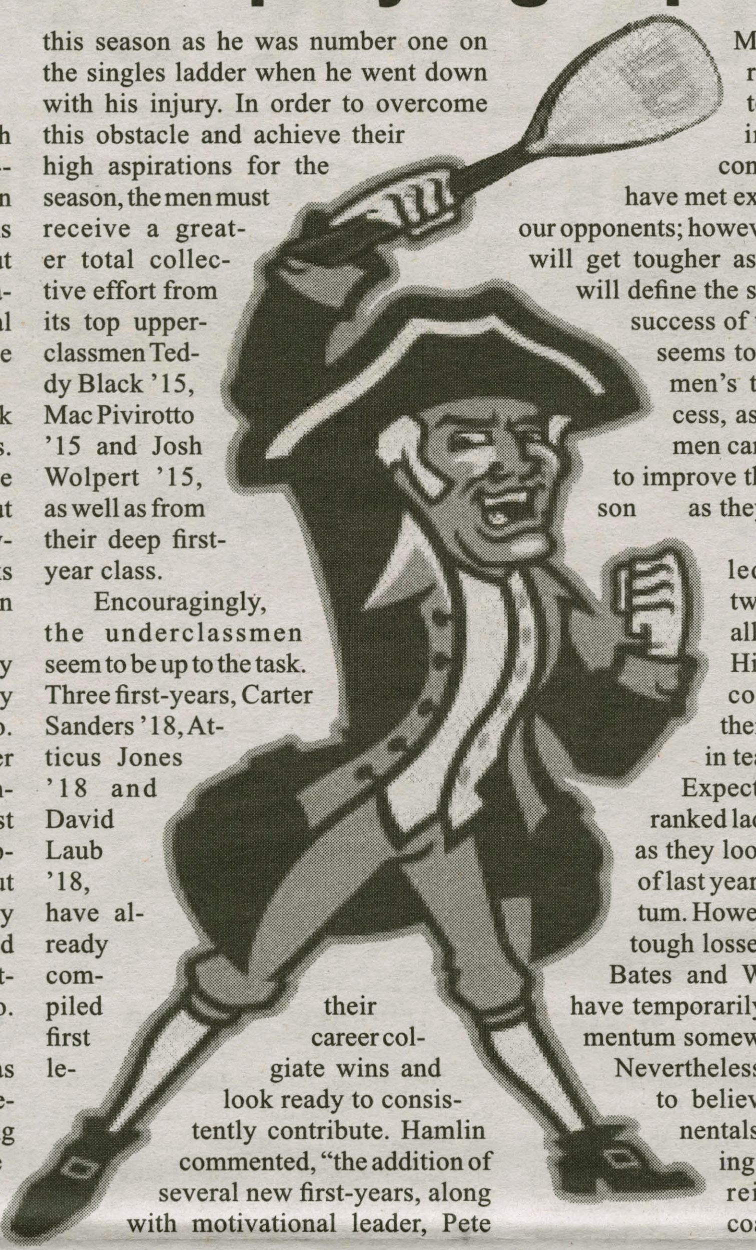
by Jack Vissicchio '17
Sports Contributor

The men's and women's squash teams recently kicked off their 2014-2015 campaigns looking to improve on last year's success. So far, both teams have shown signs of their potential but are both looking to establish a signature victory to announce their arrival as contenders in the highly competitive NESCAC.

The teams put in a lot of hard work in preparation for the early matches. Both the men's and women's teams have been fighting a multitude of injuries. But they are regaining many of their players and look to use the numerous breaks that split up the first half of the season to get healthy.

The men's season got off to a slightly disappointing start, as their two early loses have been 9-0 at the hands of No. 13 Bates and No. 11 Williams. Walker Lourie '15 and Peter Harrison '16 contributed the most in the effort against Bates, as both seniors pushed their opponents to tight five set matches. But the team has not been discouraged by the early setbacks, and have rebounded quickly, going on to compile dominating wins over No. 38 Colgate and No. 34 Tufts.

The 2-2 start is understandable, as the Continentals are still trying to re-suffle the top of their lineup after losing Tucker Hamlin '17 to a torn ACL in the preseason. Hamlin was expected to play a large role for the Continentals this season as he was number one on the singles ladder when he went down with his injury. In order to overcome this obstacle and achieve their high aspirations for the season, the men must receive a greater total collective effort from its top upperclassmen Teddy Black '15, Mac Pivirotto '15 and Josh Wolpert '15, as well as from their deep first-year class.



Encouragingly, the underclassmen seem to be up to the task. Three first-years, Carter Sanders '18, Atticus Jones '18 and David Laub '18, have already compiled their first career collegiate wins and look ready to consistently contribute. Hamlin commented, "the addition of several new first-years, along with motivational leader, Pete Michailidis '16, are really helping the team as they battle injuries." Hamlin continued, "So far, we have met expectations against our opponents; however, the season only will get tougher as January matches will define the season." This early success of the first-year class seems to bode well for the men's team's future success, as these underclassmen can only be expected to improve throughout the season as they gain experience.

The women, led by senior and two-time NESCAC all-conference player Hillary Gray '15, are coming off one of their strongest seasons in team history at 13-7. Expectations for the 16th ranked ladies were very high as they looked ready to build of last years budding momentum. However, a 2-2 start after tough losses to highly ranked Bates and Williams seems to have temporarily cooled that momentum somewhat.

Nevertheless, there is reason to believe that the Continentals, behind the calming demeanor of the reigning NESCAC coach of the year Jamie King, are finally ready to overcome a top-ranked opponent. The women have shown their great potential in convincing victories over Tufts and Colgate. Strong play from Elizabeth Morris '15, Isabelle Weisman '15 and Gray in last weekend's 2014 Division III Squash Invitational at Wesleyan provides reasons to believe

"The addition of several new freshman, along with motivational leader, Pete Michailidis '16, are really helping the team as they battle injuries."
—Tucker Hamlin '17

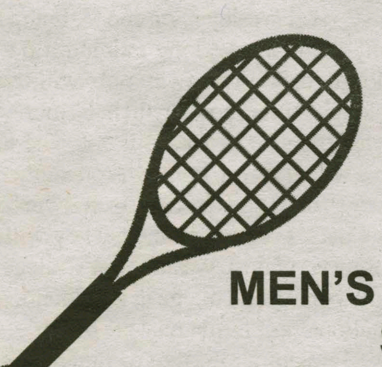
that the women will emerge a stronger force than last year in the NESCAC.

Looking forward, although both teams have not yet been able to corral a signature victory to jumpstart their seasons, they have highly anticipated upcoming matches with archrival Colby on Jan. 11. This provides both squads with a big opportunity to break through and something for them to work for as they practice over Winter Break.

HAMILTON SPORTS
WINTER SCHEDULES

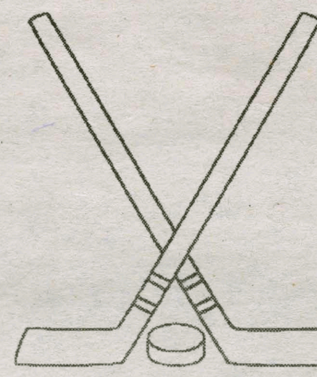
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
1/17: RIT Invitational
1/24: Brockport Golden Eagle Invitational
1/31: Hamilton Invitational

MEN'S BASKETBALL
12/30: Away vs. Ithaca
1/2: Away vs. D'Youville
1/4: Away vs. Hobart



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SQUASH
1/11: Away vs. Colby
1/16: Away vs. Stanford
1/16: Away vs. Conn College

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
12/12: Home vs. Buffalo St.
1/3: Home vs. Clarkson
1/6: Home vs. Rochester



WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY
1/6: Away vs. SUNY Cortland
1/9: Away vs. St. Michael's

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY
12/12: Home vs. SUNY Cortland
1/4-1/5: Codfish Bowl Tourney
1/9: Home vs. Bowdoin

SPECTATOR SPORTS
December 12, 2014

Swimming and diving compete in home invite

by Sirianna Santacrose '15
Senior Editor

The women's first-place performance included a sweep of the free relays.

The energy was high as fans and swimmers alike cheered on their friends and teammates at Bristol Pool last Friday afternoon. After dual wins against Trinity in November, both the men's and women's teams were eager to build on that positive trajectory during the Hamilton Invitational, a meet that has been hosted on the Hill periodically since the team's departure from the Liberty League. Hamilton men's team racked up 1,068.5 team points for the win and the women conquered with 1,131 team points over the course of two days. SUNY Oneonta came in second, followed by SUNY Cortland, Colby and SUNY Potsdam.

In the men's events, Reid Swartz '15, Andrew McWhirter '15, John McBratney '16, and Ryan Cassidy '17 had standout performances. Swartz won the 100- and 200-yard backstroke events, as well as the 100-yard butterfly. He, along with McBratney, McWhirter and Tripp Miller '18 won the 800-yard freestyle relay in 7:13.55 minutes. Swartz, McWhirter, McBratney and Scott Becker '17 proved to be a fearsome foursome in both the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays.

McBratney and Miller racked up team points by winning the 500 freestyle and 200 individual medley, respectively. Cassidy, who "has done an amazing job in distance events," according to Head Coach T.J. Davis, won the 1,650 freestyle event with a time of 17:17.39 and came in second place in the 500-yard freestyle and 400-yard individual medley events.

Swartz, a two-time NESCAC all-conference team member and in his second year as a team captain, currently holds the school record for the 50- and 100-yard backstroke, as well as the 100-yard individual medley. When asked about his outstanding performance last weekend, Swartz humbly replied, "It is nice being able to help the team with my individual swims, but I am more happy with the team's performance as a whole."

Davis said Swartz, "leads by example… He puts forth consistently the best effort he can… It's refreshing to be around an athlete who's old school in the sense that he works hard and is humble in how he goes about his business." Swartz hopes to qualify for the NCAA championship meet in March, and Davis is confident in his ability to do so. "With continued training," Davis said, "I think he can be a factor with national qualification consideration for the NCAA Championships."

Captain McKenna Kelly '15, Sarah Hooper '16 and Lauren Halladay '16 had standout performances in the women's events. Kelly won three individual events, the 200, 500 and 1,650 freestyle. She, Hooper, Hannah Mooney '17 and Lauren Klei '18 collectively won the 200, 400 and 800 free relay events. Hooper won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.07 seconds and the 100-yard freestyle in 54.62 seconds. Klei came in second in the latter event. Halladay was the runner-up in both the 100- and 200-yard breastroke events.

Kelly, who holds the program record in the 1,000-yard freestyle, is both a competitive and mindful swimmer and team captain. For a sport so highly dependent on mental fortitude, Davis is very pleased with Kelly's performances. "McKenna is so tenacious in pursuit of these distance events," he said. "It's a special swimmer who can swim those events." Like Reid Swartz, Coach Davis said Kelly "is vocal when she needs to be and leads by example with her work ethic."

Coach Davis described both the men's and women's relay events as "really dynamite. It's always great to have a four-person synergy come together for relays [and] it's a wonderful team metaphor." Of the Hamilton Invitational as a whole, Davis stated: "It was honestly one of the most spectacular in-season performances I can recall of having a team in my 19 years as head coach… All of my expectations were blown away and exceeded."

A large part of that success can be attributed to Davis, who motivates his athletes to work hard and perform at a consistently high level. Senior captain Ben Fields said, "[Davis] is our biggest advocate in and out of the pool, and it helps us want to swim hard."

After an away meet against NESCAC rival Wesleyan on Jan. 3, both teams will attend a weeklong training trip to the Florida Keys. The swimmers will train in a long course pool, which is more than twice the size of Bristol Pool. The larger size will allow swimmers "to lengthen out their strokes and develop an aerobic base," as Coach Davis explained. They will also compete against Washington College and Colby-Sawyer College at the Founders Invitational in Florida on Jan. 10.

Looking ahead, the swimmers are eager to qualify for the NCAA Championships in as many events as possible. McBratney said, "From now until we rest for the NESCAC Championship, it'll be about fine-tuning our technique and continuing improvement in our sprinting."

Based on the support the Hamilton swim team has already received this season, its progress moving forward will be followed by many with interest. And the support the swimmers offer each other is second to none. As Fields put it, "There's nothing quite like the feeling of diving into the pool knowing that 49-odd people are on the deck screaming their lungs out for you."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

The men's swimming and diving team captured first by nearly 300 points.